



Naval Station Pascagoula's award-winning on-line newspaper

# Homeport

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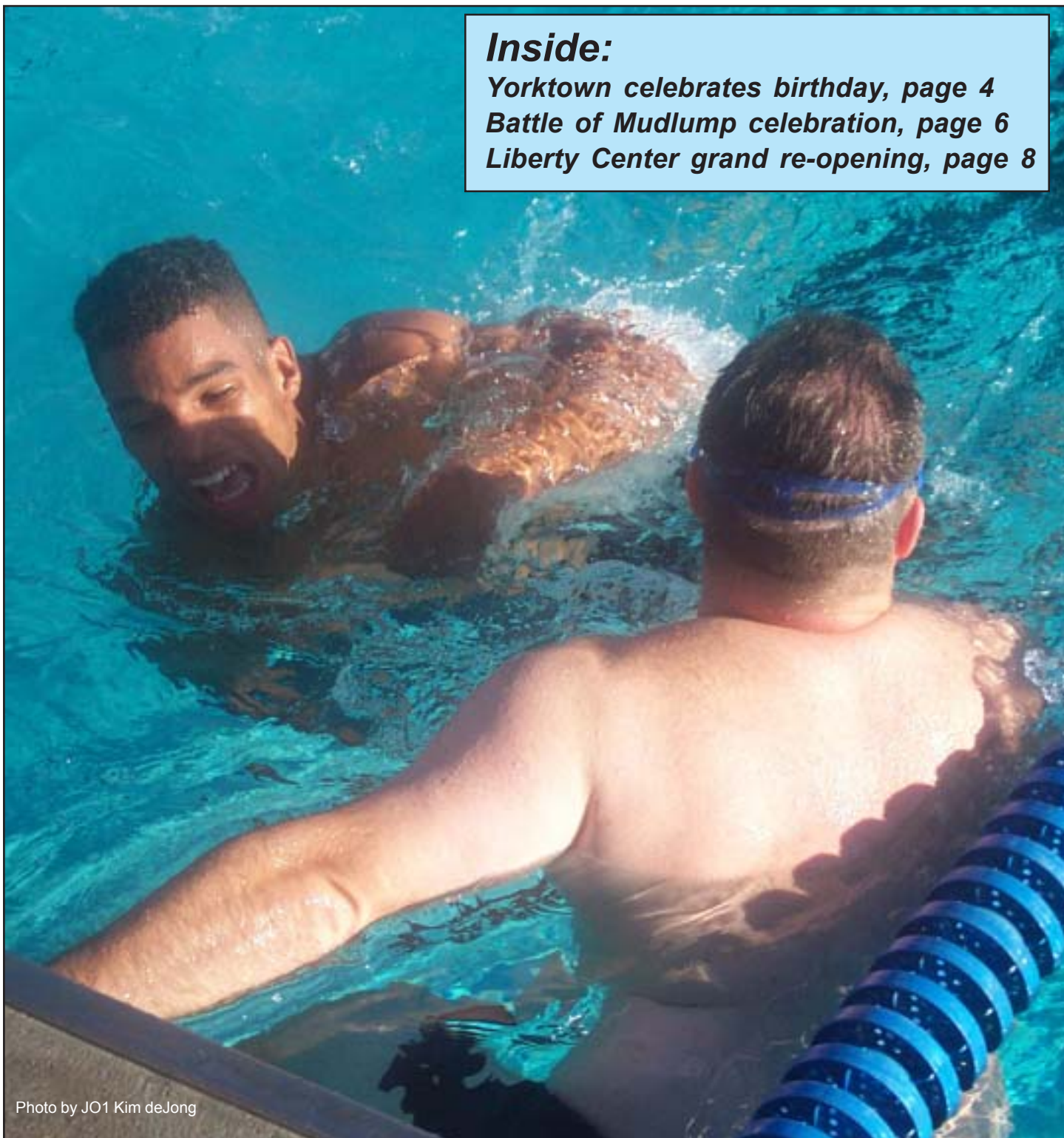


Photo by JO1 Kim deJong

## A word from our Commanders

# New Personnel System to add efficiency

By Donna Miles  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, July 7, 2004 — The new National Security Personnel System will improve the working environment within the Defense Department while creating a more satisfied, more productive workforce, Navy Secretary Gordon England said today at a town hall meeting.

"That's what this is about: great job satisfaction," England told his audience of Pentagon workers and Web and Pentagon Channel viewers. "We want everybody to go home every night and brag about the great job they accomplished that day. That is what we are trying to accomplish."

Congress authorized the new personnel system as part of the fiscal year 2004 National Defense Authorization Act. It will introduce sweeping changes to the way the department hires, pays, promotes, disciplines and fires its 700,000 civilian workers, doing away with antiquated practices England said have bogged down the department for decades.

For example, the new system will consolidate nine separate personnel systems that now govern DoD civilian workers. England said streamlining these systems into one "will make it easier to manage and certainly better for our employees."

Responding to questions from the Pentagon audience and emails from as far away as Hawaii, England explained that the system will include faster procedures for hiring new workers, pay based on per-



*The Honorable  
Gordon England,  
Secretary of the Navy*

formance rather than tenure and "pay bands" to replace the current general-service pay scale.

Details of the new system are still being worked out, said England, who was tapped by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld earlier this

year to put NSPS into place. He added that valuable input has come from a variety of pilot projects, which he called "learning exercises to make sure we've got it right before we start."

By the year's end, England said he expects to publish in the Federal Register proposed regulations for the new civilian human resources, labor-management relations and employee appeals and grievance systems.

The first DoD civilians are expected to come under the new system in summer 2005, and DoD will phase in the system for the next three years, through late 2008, England said.

Despite these projected timetables, En-

gland stressed that the implementation will be "event-driven, not time-driven. When we are ready we will do it, and not before," he said.

In the meantime, England said DoD is seeking input from all corners to make sure it comes up with the best civilian personnel system possible. "It's a collaborative process, it's not negotiating to an answer," he said. "It is getting input from literally thousands of people around the country and around the world so we can understand their views."

He acknowledged that putting the new system into place while continuing DoD's mission will be a bit of a challenge. "It's a little like maintaining an airplane while it's flying," he said. "The process has to be thoughtful and reasonably measured."

He said the new system, when fully in place, will benefit employees while making the department better able to respond to the challenges ahead, including the terrorism threat.

"The whole premise is to have a highly effective workforce ... that dearly loves to work for the Department of Defense, is well-trained and highly competitive," England noted. The result, he said, will be "a system that best represents our most valuable asset: our people."

## Rules restrict political activity

By Donna Miles  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, July 12, 2004 — With election activity steadily picking up, defense officials remind members of the military and Defense Department civilians that they're subject to rules regulating their involvement in political activities.

Gone are the days when the military posted troops at the polls after the Civil War, an act that Steve Epstein, director of the DoD General Counsel's Standards of Conduct Office, said intimidated many Southerners into not voting.

Today, Epstein said two sets of rules help protect the integrity of the political process: a DoD directive for active-duty service members and the Hatch Act for federal civilians. These rules keep the military out of partisan politics and ensure that the workplace remains politically neutral, he said.

That's not to imply that military members and civilian employees can't participate in politics. Epstein said DoD encourages both groups to register to vote and vote as they choose, and to urge others to vote. Both groups can sign nominating petitions for candidates and express their personal opinions about candidates and issues - but only if they don't do so as representatives of the armed forces. Also, all federal employees can make contributions to political organizations or candidates.

Beyond that, the list of dos and don'ts differs widely, depending on whether the employee is an active-duty service member, a rank-and-file Civil Service employee, a political appointee or member of the career Senior Executive Service, Epstein said.

Of all DoD employees, the men and women in uniform have the most restrictions regarding political activity, he explained. A 1993 revision to the Hatch Act

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Naval Station Pascagoula's hometown on-line newspaper

## Homeport

**Commanding Officer . . . . CDR Terry Rea**  
**Executive Officer . . . . . LCDR Nancy Fink**  
**Public Affairs Officer . . . Stacey Byington**  
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## From our Fleet

# Gates transits Straits of Magellan

By ENS Tony Floyd  
Gates Public Affairs Officer

ABOARD USS Thomas S. Gates (At Sea) - USS Thomas S. Gates (CG 51), became the first U.S. Navy guided missile cruiser to transit through the Straits of Magellan and the Patagonian Inland Waterway via the Smyth Canal Patagonian Passage.

The 700-mile, 3-day journey through Chilean waters was conducted safely with the aid of two pilots from the Chilean Navy. The transit took three

days through channels varying in widths from four miles to less than 150 yards.

Gates visited Valparaiso, Chile shortly after the transit with the USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) and other members of the Ronald Reagan Strike Group, and then, off the coast of Peru, participated in UNITAS, the Navy's premier South American multi-national fleet training exercise which derives its name from the Spanish word for "unity." This exercise comes as Gates continues her two-month escorting of the

Navy's newest aircraft carrier, USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76), to her permanent homeport in San Diego. Reagan and other NIMITZ-class aircraft carriers are too large to transit through the Panama Canal and must transit between coasts either around the South American continent or via the Mediterranean Sea, Indian Ocean, and Pacific Ocean.

Gates departed Naval Station Pascagoula on March 10 and is nearing the end of her scheduled deployment.

During this deployment

Gates has supported counter-narcotic operations and visited 10 ports in five different countries including Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; Cozumel, Mexico; New London, Connecticut, in honor of the Submarine Force Birthday; Philadelphia, Pa., for Armed Forces Day celebrations; Annapolis, Md., for the U.S. Naval Academy Commissioning Week festivities; and Punta Del Este, Uruguay.

The ship is scheduled to return to Pascagoula in early August.

## UNITAS task force completes work-up phase

By LT Ligia Cohen  
COMUSNAVSO Public Affairs

**CALLAO, PERU** - A 22-ship multinational task force completed 105 training events during the first week of at sea operations for UNITAS 45-04 Pacific Phase. The training events ranged from surface gunnery exercises to light line transfers, and from anti-submarine and electronic warfare training to quick reaction drills and anti-ship missile defense.

Naval and Coast Guard forces from Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, the United States and Peru, along with observers from Canada and Mexico, are participating in UNITAS 45-04 Pacific Phase. UNITAS is the premier multinational naval exercise in the region, which is conducted under the direction of Commander U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command and hosted this year by the Peruvian Navy.

"The first week of operations allows us to fine tune procedures and hone our skills in all the traditional warfare areas," said CAPT Dave Costa, Commander, Destroyer Squadron 6 (CDS 6) and U.S.



Photo by LT Ligia Cohen

*A SH 60B helicopter from Helicopter Anti-submarine Squadron Light (HSL) 37 lands on the flight deck of USS Thomas S. Gates (CG 51) during cross deck operations conducted as part of UNITAS 45-04 Pacific Phase.*

Task Group 138.0, which includes the guided missile cruiser USS Thomas S. Gates (CG 51), the guided missile frigate USS Crommelin (FFG 37) and their embarked air squadrons from Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron Light (HSL) 42 and 37, in addition to USCG Legare and supporting detachments from Fleet Composite Squadron (VC) 6, Afloat Training Group and the Coast Guard International Training Division (ITD).

"These [supporting] units are providing the latest training tools and methods for the task force," added Costa. "We have a great variety of training, from ITD pollution control symposiums ashore to remote-controlled drones and Ship Deployable Surface Targets simulating realistic threats at sea. This is great training in a high-tech environment."

The training evolutions set a fast pace for the crews, who keep up with the schedule by

executing one event while preparing for the next.

"I don't think it's possible to fit more exercises into a one-week period," said Operations Specialist First Class (SW) Daniel Roberts, off the Crommelin. "Every warfare has been worked. The training value for Crommelin is immeasurable... excellent control time across multiple air frames for my ASTACs (antisubmarine tactical air controllers), and great formation steaming for junior Operations Specialists, and a nice refresher for us grey haired goats."

Another unique training opportunity was provided by Peruvian diesel submarines and their skilled crews during anti-submarine warfare exercises involving the detection, monitoring and neutralization of threats under the surface.

"During the first week, we conducted more than 500 man hours of training," said Senior Chief Sonar Technician (SW) Joe Christian, the sonar leading chief aboard Gates. "When we are in charge of the evolution, we have to plan how we are going to task all ships in the action groups and direct the

*Continued on page 13*

## From our Fleet

# USS Yorktown celebrates 20th and final birthday on deployment in Middle East

By SN Anthony Pickett  
USS Yorktown

More than 200 years ago, on Oct. 19, 1781, the last battle of the Revolutionary War was fought. It was a great victory for America, and forever instilled the name Yorktown in our nation's history.

Long after the "Battle of Yorktown," our nation still remembers the tradition of victory and the pride the battle symbolizes. Five ships with that name have been commissioned and fought proudly for these ideals.

The keel for the most recent of these ships, the AEGIS guided-missile cruiser CG-48, was laid Oct. 19, 1981, at Ingalls shipyard in Pascagoula, Miss., to commemorate the bicentennial date of the battle. Just three years later, on July 4, 1984, Yorktown was com-



Photo by SN Morgan Habecker

***LT Greg Horshok and GSMFA Miguel Bojorquez, the oldest and youngest sailor on the Yorktown, cut the birthday cake on July 24.***

missioned as a U.S. Navy ship.

Continuing the victorious traditions of her predecessors, the ship celebrated her 20th

birthday while on deployment in the Middle East. It will be her final birthday as she is set to decommission at the end of

this year.

In her 20-year history, Yorktown has had much success and played a role in the United States' Naval history. Most notably, Yorktown was selected as the test platform for the "Smartship" program. This program allowed it to operate with fewer crew members and manned positions, and yet remain combat ready. This technology is now being applied to ships being built today because of the program's success on Yorktown.

Today, as Yorktown finishes up its final deployment with the WASP Expeditionary Strike Group, there is a lot to celebrate. Despite its age, the ship has been kept in great condition, surpassing expectations and performing alongside newer ships with noted success.

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## Ticonderoga helps recover illegal narcotics

By OS2 Daniel Roberts  
NFS Command Public Affairs

ABOARD USS CROMMELIN (NNS) — The guided-missile frigate USS Crommelin (FFG 37) intercepted a shipment of cocaine and arrested five drug smugglers during operations while deployed to the U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command area of responsibility.

The crew of USS Crommelin, working in conjunction with USS Ticonderoga (CG 47), made their first recovery of illegal narcotics since reporting on station patrolling the waters of the Eastern Pacific.

Just before midnight, while conducting counter-drug patrol, Jaguar 605, an SH-60B helicopter embarked in Ticonderoga, detected a drug ferrying speedboat or "go-fast."

Shortly after being detected, the speedboat fled the area, conducting a series of high-speed maneuvers in an attempt to elude the helicopter.

Crommelin, operating in the area, was called into action by Joint Inter-Agency Task Force (JIATF) South and immediately maneuvered at high speed to intercept the fleeing go-fast. Easyrider 57, an SH-60B Helicopter in Crommelin, was launched and aided in the chase, relocating the speedboat and allowing Jaguar 605 to refuel.

With Crommelin acting as a blocker, Ticonderoga maneuvered ahead of the speedboat and ordered the drug runners to stop. While Ticonderoga performed all the necessary steps to persuade the go-fast to halt, Easyrider 57, using its Forward Looking Infrared

(FLIR) camera, visually documented the go-fast crew throwing their illegal cargo overboard. Ticonderoga then broke from the chase to recover the contraband while Crommelin continued pursuit.

Shortly after jettisoning the last of their narcotics, the speedboat shut down its engines and came to a halt. U.S. Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment (LEDET) 102 rapidly deployed from Crommelin via small boat and apprehended the five drug smugglers aboard the go-fast.

Ticonderoga recovered eight bales of cocaine and turned them over to Crommelin after testing and documentation. Ticonderoga then departed the area, and Crommelin remained on station to search for more contraband.

Crommelin recovered a to-

tal of 72 cocaine bales weighing more than 50 pounds each and worth a total estimated street value of \$36 million. The smugglers were turned over to appropriate authorities.

USS Ticonderoga returns to its homeport at Naval Station Pascagoula on Aug. 3, after completing its final and most successful deployment. Ticonderoga set a new record for counter-drug operations, completing six interdictions in five months, netting more than 14,000 pounds of cocaine, and detaining 25 suspects.

"I'm really proud of the efforts of all hands on Ticonderoga's final cruise," said CDR Glenn Zeiders III, the ship's commanding officer. "This crew's achievements place a superb capstone on the 22-year record of excellence of a great ship."



## Around the Homeport

# Area Sailors of the Quarter recognized

By JO1 Kim deJong  
Public Affairs Office

Ten Pascagoula Sailors stood out this quarter and were recognized as area Sailors of the Quarter.

At a luncheon on July 15 at the Tiki Restaurant in Gautier, the 10 Sailors were recognized for their outstanding performance.

The Jackson County Chamber of Commerce sponsored the awards and the Gautier Rotary Club hosted the event. Singing River Electric, the Peoples Bank, Keesler Federal Credit Union, Pas-Point Council of Navy League of the United States, and Northrop Grumman Ship Systems also helped sponsor the lunch.

Those recognized serve in a variety of functions throughout the area.

The Sailor of the Quarter for the Shore Intermediate Maintenance Activity (SIMA) Pascagoula is BM1(SW) Troy Jackson. He serves as division officer for the corrosion control division at the Construction Battalion Center in Gulfport. Through Jackson's leadership the Corrosion Control facilities scored an overall satisfactory score during a recent command audit.

SIMA's Junior Sailor of the Quarters is GSM2(SW) Christopher Robinson. He is the work center supervisor for the outside machine shop, which is responsible for 35 percent of SIMA's total workload. He was also instrumental in obtaining a perfect score for a gauge calibration during the recent command audit.

The Blue Jacket of the Quarter for SIMA is ET3 Rachell Tate. Tate is in charge of the administrative duties for all R-4 division calibration labs, and her organizational abilities led to a substantial increase in laboratory productivity and personnel accountability.

Photo by Stacey Byington



***Recognized Sailors join together with CDR Daniel Henderson, SIMA's Commanding Officer, and David Thompson, President of the Gautier Rotary Club, for a group photo.***

NC1(SW) James Brady was chosen as the USS Stephen W. Groves (FFG 29) Senior Sailor of the Quarter. Brady is the ship's first career counselor, and immediately upon arrival, established the foundation for a successful career development program. He also organizes and monitors the Navy College PACE program for 20 students finishing the semester with 94 percent completion rate, 50 percent higher than the fleet average.

The Junior Sailor of the Quarter for the Groves is GSMFN Fred Spaulding. He is responsible for the testing and transferring of thousands of gallons of fuel. He is the ship's 'oil king,' normally a job performed by someone much more senior.

The Naval Station Pascagoula Branch Medical Clinic Junior Sailor of the Quarter is HM3 Trevor Wolfe. He coordinated and participated in the Jackson County Senior Citizen prom and the Kids Day Fair, organizing more than 20 volunteers. Both events showed Sailors in a positive light in the community's eye. Wolfe also serves as the Corpsman at the gun range when Pascagoula

named the Sailor of the Quarter for Naval Station (NAVSTA) Pascagoula. Blitch organized and implemented a departmental safety stand-down for more than 150 security, reservists and auxiliary security force personnel. He also helped qualify more than 45 personnel on a variety of small arms weapons.

The NAVSTA Junior Sailor of the Quarter is MA2 Nick Henley. He trained and assisted in the qualification of three individuals in the performance of armory duties. He also is responsible for issuing, receiving and maintaining more than 120 weapons and force protection equipment.

CS3 Valerie Walker is the NAVSTA Blue Jacket of the Quarter. Walker supervised the receipt and issue of all Combined Bachelor Housing (CBH) stock in excess of more than 125,000 items with zero discrepancies. She also supervised the replacement of furniture in more than 100 rooms, the replacement of 200 television, and 400 video systems.

Congratulations to all the Sailors for their outstanding accomplishments.

Sailors work on their qualifications.

HN Jonathan Hartpaiz is the Clinic's Blue Jacket of the Quarter. He willingly worked more than 50 hours as the Corpsman at the gun range during essential gun range missions. Hartpaiz also voluntarily accepted the position of Family Health Services supply petty officer and manages a \$5,000 budget.

MA1 Thomas Blitch was



Photo by Stacey Byington

***CDR Daniel Henderson, SIMA's Commanding Officer, was the event's guest speaker.***

## Around the Homeport

# Battle of Mudlump celebrates anniversary

## *Four days of events pit teams against each other*

Photo by JO1 Kim deJong



**Left, right, left -- RP3 Jason Mullenix, blind folded, pushes LCDR Wayne Hatman through the wheel chair course during one of the Mudlump competitions. Hatman gives Mullenix directions by using a whistle, bell and horn.**

By JO1 Kim deJong  
Public Affairs Office

Area Sailors and government civilians celebrated the 12<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Naval Station Pascagoula with four days of competition and fun activities, nicknamed the "Battle of Mudlump."

At stake was the Mudlump Cup, which went to the department or command that accumulated the most points throughout the four-day competition. Last year, Branch Medical and Dental Clinics Pascagoula combined forces to take home the coveted Mudlump Cup.

This year the competition began all over again and the stakes were high to see which Naval Station department or command would be taking home the trophy.

Competition began July 6 with water polo, paintball, racquetball and sand volleyball. By the end of the day the Naval Station Pascagoula Security department was in first place with nine points. Destroyer Squadron 6 (DESRON 6) followed with 6 points and the USS James E. Williams (DDG 95) and Naval Station Pascagoula Admin department were tied for third place with five points apiece.

Day two events included a lap swim relay, 3-pitch softball, racquetball, and sand volleyball. SIMA took over the lead with 20 points, followed closely by the Williams with

14 points, and DESRON 6 fell to third place with 12 points.

The morning of day three kicked off with a poker run. It didn't matter how fast a person ran, the best poker hand determined the winner. Events for the day continued with a dominos tournament, golf cart decorating contest and races, and a pool tournament. SIMA remained in the lead with a total of 54 points. The Williams followed in second place with 23 points and DESRON 6 held on to third place with 20 points.

Final events were held at the Lakeside bachelor quarter's complex on July 9. Events included horseshoes, spades, 3-point basketball shoot-out, sand volleyball, dodge ball, wheelchair races, mud shoot-out and the chow hall challenge.

The day's events were concluded with an award ceremony where the best of the best was named. SIMA won the coveted Mudlump Cup with a total of 128 points. The Williams placed second with a total of 81 points, and Naval Station Pascagoula Security department took home third place with 49 points.

"This year's Mudlump was a huge success," said Kristen Kea, Moral, Welfare, and Recreation Director.

"Every year we keep adding more events and fine tuning Mudlump so that every year it gets better and better," she added.

More photos on page 7

***Jump, set, spike -- Four teams play side by side during the sand volleyball tournament during Mudlump. Teams were giving it their all to win the tournament and claim even more points for their command as they attempt to win the Mudlump Cup.***

Photo by OSSA Daniel Grevillius





## Around the Homeport



Photo by JO1 Kim deJong

**Dodgeball fun** -- Children race to be the first to pick up a ball during the Dodgeball competition. Several activities were organized to allow military children to join in on the fun during the last day of the Mudlump competition.



Photo by Stacey Byington

**Winners** -- Shore Intermediate Maintenance Activity (SIMA) team members show off the Mudlump Cup after earning more points (128) than any other team in the Mudlump competition.



Photo by JO1 Kim deJong

**Run, run** -- On the third morning of competition, runners begin the Poker Run. It didn't matter who came in first place in the run, the winners were the ones with the best poker hands. At several stations set up throughout the course, runners picked up cards and tried to put together the best poker hand.

### About the cover

**Swim** -- HN Jonathan Hartpaiz touches the wall after finishing his two laps as HM1 (FMF/SCW) Michael Haggerty takes over the race for the medical clinic's team during the Mudlump swim relay. The medical team placed third. The USS James E. Williams team took first place and the Naval Station Port Operations team came in second.



Photo by Stacey Byington

**Eat it up** -- One of the many events in the Battle of Mudlump was the Chow Hall Challenge. Part one of the challenge involved finding a ping pong ball in a plate of spaghetti noodles.



Photo by JO1 Kim deJong

**Water polo** -- LCDR Nancy Fink, NAVSTA XO, part of the Admin team, looks for an open teammate as the Destroyer Squadron 6 team tries to block the pass in the Mudlump water polo event.

## Around the Homeport

# Liberty Center grand re-opening

By JO1 Kim deJong  
Public Affairs Office

The Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) department's Liberty Center has undergone an extreme makeover and is ready for Sailors to check it out.

August is being named as the grand re-opening month for the Liberty Center. Special programs will be held throughout the month to celebrate the re-opening.

Events include a movie trivia contest, which will run throughout the month. 'Wild Wednesday' nights begin Aug. 4 with an UNO tournament; a spades tournament will be held on Aug. 11; an 8-ball pool tournament on Aug. 18; and a



Photo by OSSA Daniel Grevillius

***Sailors take advantage of the 12 computers with fast access service at the new Liberty Center.***

ping-pong tournament on Aug. 26 to round out the month.

The events don't end there though; 'Make your own pizza night' will be held on Aug. 12, in the new Liberty Center

kitchen.

"With the new renovations we are able to do a lot more for the Sailors," said Kristen Kea, MWR director.

Along with the addition of new programs, there are many new aspects to the Liberty Center. The game room has been expanded, and now includes a ping-pong table, foosball table, two pool tables, an air hockey table, two televisions and a snack bar.

The movie room has been expanded to include new recliners and a state-of-the-art sound system. The new room has the capability to show new movie releases from the Navy Motion Picture Services, which has more than 500 new and classic movies in its inventory.

If movies are not your thing, there is a kitchen available for Sailors' use to prepare

home-cooked meals. There is also a quiet room available for reading or studying.

The Liberty Center also has internet connections where people can plug in their own laptops. For those who do not have personal laptops, there is a computer room with fast access services available. Currently there are 12 computers available with internet connections.

Another addition is the relocation of the Information, Ticket and Travel (ITT) office. It is now located in the Liberty Center.

"The new Liberty center has been set up as a one-stop shopping area," said Kea. "Sailors can get a snack, play a game of pool, check their email and purchase tickets, all with one stop at the Liberty Center."

"Along with the renovations the Liberty program still will offer shuttle runs from the Liberty Center to Cracker Jack's, Wal-Mart and Singing River Mall."

The Liberty Center is open to all active duty military and DoD civilians over the age of 18. It is open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday, and from noon to 10 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

"The idea behind the new renovations is to make the Liberty Center a home-away-from-home setting for our Sailors," said Kea.



Photo by OSSA Daniel Grevillius

***Sailors take in a game of pool in the new expanded game room, while others watch one of the two new televisions.***

## MGCCC announces tuition price increase

By JO1 Kim deJong  
Public Affairs Office

Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College (MGCCC) recently announced that tuition prices will increase at all MGCCC facilities beginning Aug. 23.

Full-time tuition will in-

crease from \$645 to \$745 per semester and part-time tuition will increase from \$65 to \$75 per semester hour. There will be no change in registration, technology or book rental fees.

"Active duty Sailors here can still go to MGCCC for free using tuition assistance," said Pauline Meyer, Director of

Navy College Pascagoula.

"Sailors can still go for free even with the increase because MGCCC tuition is under the \$250 per semester hour cap set by tuition assistance so the rental fees for the books can be included in the tuition."

Enrollment is still open for anyone interested in register-

ing for the fall 2004 semester at MGCCC.

For more information contact Debra Lee, the local MGCCC representative, at 761-5647, or Pauline Meyer at the Navy College Office at 761-2439, both at the Learning Resource Center.



## Around the Homeport

# Station teams participate in Pig-Out

By Stacey Byington  
Public Affairs Officer

For the second year in a row, the Naval Station Pascagoula fire station placed second in one of the cooking categories of the Gautier Pig-Out, held this year June 10-11. The two-day festival included 25 teams competing for the best grilled beef brisket, chicken, pork shoulder, and ribs.

This year, the Navy in Pascagoula had two teams competing in the cook-off. The fire station had two entries — one in the brisket category and one in the shoulder category. The Singing River Wardroom had one entry, in the shoulder category. Only one of the three entries scored high enough to be ranked in the top three of its category — the pork shoulder cooked by Fire Inspector Danny Hubbard, which placed second with a total score of 197.9427 points.

"We go out to have fun," said Hubbard. "If we place, that is just icing on the cake."

Hubbard said that because they had competed last year, they had a little better idea of what to expect this year. He



Photo by Stacey Byington

*Andy Moore, left, former NAVSTA Pascagoula fire chief, Danny Hubbard, right, station fire fighter and EMT, and Andy's son, Mike Moore, put the finishing touches on their pork shoulder entry before presenting it to the judges at the annual Gautier 'Pig-Out.' The fire station team placed second.*

said the fire department only entered two categories this year, but has plans to enter all four next year.

NAVSTA Supply Officer,

CDR John Zollo, and Gary Miller, with the FISC detachment, joined forces to cook the wardroom entry.

"We didn't win anything, but

we weren't in last place either," said Zollo. "We had a great time, and we are ready to do it again next year."

## Area history

# Building of causeway created local controversy

By Stacey Byington  
Public Affairs Officer

The causeway leading from the Ingalls access road to Naval Station almost never was.

The Coalition for Responsible Homeporting filed an official objection in Mississippi Chancery Court on May 8, 1987, to the issuance of approximately \$2.3 million in bonds, to help Jackson County raise money to pay its share of the causeway building costs.

If the causeway had not been built, there might never have been Naval Station Pas-

## Causeway Costs

**State contribution:**  
**\$14.4 million**

**City of Pascagoula:**  
**\$3.4 million**

**Jackson County:**  
**\$2.3 million**

cagoula.

The coalition's primary objection was that the 13-foot bridge was too low, and that fishermen and recreational boaters would have to use an-

other route around Singing River Island.

The coalition wanted the bridge height raised to 30 feet.

They also made claims that the state constitution protects navigable waterways, and obstructing the channel between the mainland and Singing River Island would violate state law.

Proponents of the causeway argued that if the bridge height was raised, it would cost more money to build.

If a judge ruled in the coalition's favor, the issuance of county bonds could be

halted.

The 2.7-mile causeway linking the Mississippi mainland to Singing River Island and the soon-to-be Navy home-port, known as Naval Station Pascagoula, would cost approximately \$20 million to build — \$14.4 million contributed by the state, \$3.4 million by the City of Pascagoula, and \$2.3 million contributed by Jackson County.

Chancery Court Judge Robert Oswald ruled on May 22, 1987, that building the 13-foot-high causeway would not vio-

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## Around the Homeport

Photo by Stacey Byington



**Promotion --** CDR Daniel Henderson, SIMA CO, pins lieutenant bars on LT Howard Herring III, Naval Station Pascagoula Weapons Officer, after his recent promotion.



Photo by JO1 Kim deJong

**Take Off --** Runners start their watches and take off as the horn blows at the 12th annual Causeway Classic. 109 runners took part in the 5k run which began by the fire department and took runners half way down the causeway and back again to the starting line. Children participated in a mile run that took them to the main gate and back. This year's Causeway Classic was sponsored by the Gulf Coast Runners Club, Abita Springs, Wayne Lee's, the City of Pascagoula, Keesler Federal Credit Union and Naval Station Pascagoula. Next year's run is scheduled for July 16, 2005.



Photo by JO1 Kim deJong

**Happy Birthday --** Staff members of the Naval Station Pascagoula Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) celebrate the 25th anniversary of FFSC on July 15. Pascagoula-based Sailors and civilians helped celebrate FFSC's birthday with traditional birthday games such as pin-the-tail-on-the-donkey, birthday cake, ice cream sundaes, a picture presentation and music.



Photo by Stacey Byington

**Farewell --** LCDR Theresa Foster, MC, shows off a farewell gift. 'Doc' Foster, as she is known at Branch Medical Clinic Pascagoula, is leaving the Navy to join a private practice in New York.



## Around the Homeport

# Prepare to pay if stealing from Keesler Exchange

**By Airman 1st Class S. Stegman  
Keesler Public Affairs Office**

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. — The base exchange has an epidemic of shoplifting running through its veins.

In a one-week time period, Army and Air Force Exchange Service store detectives catch three or four shoplifters, which brings the monthly and yearly averages to 17 and 100 respectively, according to Mike Diot, AAFES safety and security manager.

Shoplifting, employee theft and accounting errors cost the base exchange \$364,975 last year alone.

The shoplifting demographic sees no race, color, religion, sex or national origin.

Shoplifters are military members, their dependents, civilians and Defense Department civilians.

A common misconception about shoplifting is that it's just stashing unpaid merchandise into a purse or heavy coat. That's true, but it's also switching price tags or "percentage off" tags on items or getting a refund on something that hasn't been bought.

Simply put by Ted Jordan, 81st Training Wing staff judge advocate office, "Shoplifting is any attempt to take the property of the base exchange without paying the correct price."

The store's detectives have seen people from 5- to 83-year-olds shoplift anything from trading cards to high-

Photo by Kemberly Groue



***An AAFES store detective or 'eye in the sky' watches video surveillance of the Keesler Exchange.***

priced electronics.

The most common stolen items are cologne, cosmetics, compact discs, video games, tobacco products, clothing, jewelry and watches, said Diot.

"We don't watch the shoppers - we watch our merchandise," said one store detective.

To watch the store's merchandise, the base exchange has a video surveillance system that allows the detectives to see almost anywhere in the store, the food court area and even the farthest corner of the parking lot.

When persons have been identified as having unpaid merchandise concealed in their possession, they have until they leave the store to change their minds and put it back on the shelf.

"Once the person has cross-

ed the line of no return (the store's entrance), that's when they have officially shoplifted and we are able to detain them," another store detective explained.

"Then we bring them into our office and show them the tape we have of them with the merchandise and have them fill out paperwork while the security forces are on their way to pick them up," he continued.

The store detectives release the shoplifter into the custody of Keesler security forces personnel. The shoplifter is handcuffed and brought out of the base exchange to be escorted to the security forces building for further action.

After shoplifters have been read their rights at the security forces building, their status determines their release, said Mary Lucas, 81st Security

Forces Squadron.

If the person is under the age of 18, his sponsor is contacted to pick him up. All reports, with the exception of dependent children of active-duty military assigned to Keesler, are forwarded to Harrison County Family Court for action, she explained.

There's a special panel made up of representatives from family advocacy, legal and security forces that determines the action taken on the dependent children.

If they're civilians or dependents over the age of 18 or retired military, they are issued a magistrate ticket and will have to go to court to determine their guilt and fine.

If they're active-duty military, their first sergeant or leading chief is contacted to come and sign for them.

Shoplifters can face a wide range of ramifications for their actions, depending on the dollar amount stolen and how many times they have been caught, said Jordan.

For first-and second-time non-active-duty offenders who shoplift merchandise worth up to \$500, the crime is considered a misdemeanor. The individual could face six months jail time and/or a \$1,000 fine in addition to a \$200+ value of any damaged or unsellable merchandise, and probation.

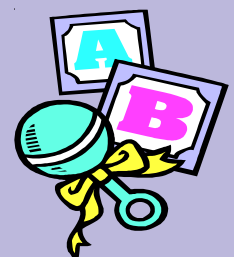
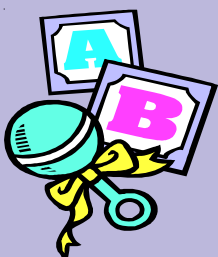
If a person is convicted for a third time, the crime is automatically considered a felony and faces fines up to \$5,000

*Continued on page 13*

## New Arrivals

***Rashon Anthony Carter***, new son to PC1 Patricia Portis.  
Born June 20.

***Steven and Spencer Westberry***, new sons to ET1 Paul Westberry.  
Born June 22.



## Navy News

# Traffic wrecks still leading killer

By Derek Nelson  
Naval Safety Center PAO

National statistics show that car wrecks kill more people than AIDS, drugs or gun violence.

Navy and Marine Corps data are equally disturbing. From fiscal year 2000 through fiscal year 2003, 251 Sailors and 212 Marines died in automobile crashes. These tragedies represent more than half of all accidental deaths during the period, and more than one-and-one-half times the number killed in all operational mishaps. According to traffic-safety experts at the Naval Safety Center, nearly all of these traffic mishaps are preventable.

"Reining in traffic mishaps, the number one killer of our Sailors and Marines, is a matter of changing the culture," said CAPT Bruce Crisler, director of the Naval Safety Center's Shore Safety Programs Directorate. "We simply can't keep doing things the same way if we're going to meet the Secretary of Defense's challenge to reduce mishaps by 50 percent by 2005. It's going to take some new intervention strategies and



Naval Safety Center photo

leadership from the top down."

But traffic crashes happen with such regularity that people grow numb to the overall consequences and costs. People describe the aftermath of the attack on USS Cole, which killed 17 Sailors and injured 39, as "devastating" and a "tragedy." Yet when the Navy lost five times that many Sailors to traffic wrecks in fiscal year 2003, the news reports usually treat the events as almost routine.

When it comes to changing the behaviors that cause traffic deaths, one of the biggest challenges is a culture of widespread acceptance of the inevitability of traffic accidents.

Crashes are not inevitable—they're preventable, often with the application of some common-sense risk management.

A typical recent mishap involved a first-class petty officer driving an SUV with three shipmates as passengers. A Ford Supercab F-250 suddenly changed lanes and hit the SUV's right front fender, causing the Sailor at the wheel to lose control. His SUV rolled four times and was totaled. However, all four Sailors walked away. Why? Because they were wearing seat belts, which kept them in the vehicle.

Seat belts reduce the chances that a front-seat passenger will be injured or killed in a car crash by 45 percent. Every Sailor must learn to think of the seatbelt as the best free "life insurance" available. Research shows that once people develop the 2-to-3-second habit of buckling their seat belts, they usually keep it for life. Nevertheless, between fiscal year 2001 and fiscal year 2003, 42 percent of the Sailors and Marines who died in traffic crashes weren't wearing seat belts.

Numerous service-wide and

local initiatives are underway to prevent traffic wrecks. The Navy and Marine Corps Safety Council's Shore working group has traffic safety as a primary target, focusing on those factors most often reported as causes in automobile crashes: not wearing seatbelts, driving while fatigued or after drinking alcohol, speeding and losing control.

Impaired driving and under-age drinking are under special scrutiny. Current rules mandate that Navy personnel found guilty of DUI lose their base driving privileges for a year, but cooperation between local police and military police sometimes has gaps. The working group is studying the question of standardized enforcement by local commands, and is working to make sure that every Sailor understands the consequences of a DUI.

Traffic safety is everyone's responsibility. Individuals have to think about what they're doing, what can go wrong, and what actions are necessary to prevent it from going wrong. The older must teach the young. Leaders must teach their people.

## Navy announces early transition program

By Chief of Naval Personnel  
Public Affairs Office

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Sailors interested in leaving the Navy before the end of their active obligated service (EAOS) will get another chance this year under a second installment of the Early Transition Program.

The program, announced this week in NAVADMIN 151/04, allows Sailors with an EAOS in FY-05 the opportunity to separate this fiscal year. Like last year's program, it is strictly voluntary and applies

***"I am delighted that this great retention we are continuing to experience has allowed us to offer the program again this year."***

*VADM Gerry Hoewing  
Chief of Naval Personnel*

to Sailors in most skill sets. But this time around Sailors will be allowed to separate up to 12 months early, as opposed to the six months early out offered last year.

"For Sailors with impending educational or civilian career plans, this program could of-

fer the extra time and opportunity they need to get started on a new life," explained VADM Gerry Hoewing, Chief of Naval Personnel. "I am delighted that this great retention we are continuing to experience has allowed us to offer the program again this year."

Sailors of any rating (including non-designated Sailors) are eligible except for the following:

- Sailors under a Selective Reenlistment Bonus (SRB) or in a rating/NEC [Navy Enlisted Classification Code] eligible for SRB reenlistment.

- Sailors in the SEAL/EOD/Diver/SWCC programs.

- Sailors in nuclear ratings.

Sailors can begin submitting requests immediately via the chain of command to Navy Personnel Command. All separations must be effected by Sept. 15.



## Continuing on ...

### Rules restrict political activity ...

*Continued from page 2*

freed most Civil Service employees to engage in political activities outside the workplace, although many restrictions still apply.

For example, service members as well as government civilians can attend political meetings or rallies. Military members can attend only as spectators and not in uniform. They're not permitted to make public political speeches, serve in any official capacity in partisan groups, or participate in

partisan political campaigns or conventions.

On the other hand, civilian employees governed by the Hatch Act may be active in and speak before political gatherings or serve as officers of political parties or partisan groups. They also are permitted to manage campaigns, distribute literature, write political articles or serve as a spokesperson for a party or candidate.

Military members generally

aren't permitted to campaign for a political office. Civilian employees are, as long as it's a nonpartisan election.

While the dos and don'ts concerning political activity may vary, Epstein said the basic rules hold true for all DoD workers. They can't use their position to influence or interfere with an election. And they can never engage in political activity on the job, in a government vehicle, or while wearing an official uniform.

### USS Yorktown celebrates 20th ...

*Continued from page 4*

Many of the crew members themselves are impressed with its shape.

"This ship may be 20 years old but there is no doubt in my mind she could remain in service for several more years" stated STG2(SW) Chris Roberts. "Regardless, it says a

great deal of her crew, past and present, to keep this ship in such great condition."

For 20 years, the fifth Yorktown has carried the victorious name well. It has made many successful deployments and played a part to improve ships after her with the

"Smartship" program. This may be her final birthday, but the victorious tradition of this ship and her predecessors will not be forgotten. With the significance and pride behind the name Yorktown, another ship, 20 years from now, may have the chance to carry the torch.

### Keesler Exchange ...

*Continued from page 11*

and five years jail time.

For active-duty military personnel assigned to Keesler, security forces will investigate the crime and send pertinent information up the shoplifter's chain of command.

The same goes for other active duty military caught shoplifting who are assigned to other military activities and commands on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Shopping privileges for both civilian and military members who are caught shoplifting are revoked for a period of time depending on how much they take from the store.

If you see someone shoplifting, keep an eye on them and tell a sales representative or the store manager of your suspicions.

### UNITAS task force ...

*Continued from page 3*

employment of all the assets."

With all the work-up phase training under their belt, the UNITAS force now prepares to test their ability to operate as a unified coalition force in a realistic scenario during the final battle problem. Here, the multinational force will be

tasked with a variety of missions enforcing U.N. sanctions. Together they'll prioritize tasks, manage assets, and stay flexible within the rules of engagement to achieve their ultimate UNITAS goal: interoperability.

### Causeway controversy ...

*Continued from page 9*

late the state constitution, and did not block a navigatable waterway.

The contract to build the causeway was awarded in September 1987 to BOH Brothers of New Orleans. The groundbreaking ceremony was held on Oct. 8, 1987.

"This causeway is more than a link between an island and the mainland," said then Jackson County Supervisor

President Doug Holden. "It represents a great economic boost for the area."

The causeway took 468 days to build, and was completed in January 1989. Final inspections and acceptance by state officials occurred on Jan 19. It was opened to traffic for the first time on Friday, Jan. 20, the same day that President George Bush Sr. was sworn into office.

### MWR Facilities Hours of operation

#### Outdoor Rental 761-2038

Boats, campers, travel trailers, land and garden equipment, outdoor grills, propane, hunting and fishing licenses, and much, much more. Mondays and Saturdays, 6 a.m. - 2 p.m.; Tuesdays through Fridays, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Closed Sundays.

#### Cracker Jack's Lakeside 938-0439

Food and beverages, five TVs, including a big-screen, free pool tables, free computers with internet capability, Play-stations, patio with view of the lake. Mondays-Thursdays, 5-10 p.m.; Fridays, 5-11 p.m.; Saturdays, 11 a.m. - 11 p.m.; Sundays, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

#### Sports/Fitness Center 761-2107

Monday-Friday, 5:30 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.; Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, noon-6 p.m.

#### Kickboxing

Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m.

#### Water Jogging

Mondays, 11 a.m.; Wednesdays, 8 a.m.

#### Pilates

Tuesdays, 7 a.m.; Thursdays, 6 p.m.

#### Liberty Center

Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.; Saturdays, Sundays, holidays, noon-10 p.m.

#### ITT

761-2432

Moved to Liberty Center. Ticket outlet for Gulf Coast Coliseum, theme park tickets, worldwide cruise packages, vacation and travel planning, information on local attractions. Mondays-Fridays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

#### Skeeter's

Main Softball Field

Open for breakfast and lunch, Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. - 1 p.m. Also open for softball games, other sporting events, and for other special occasions.

## MWR Activities

# Check out the Liberty Center

### Liberty Center Schedule of Events

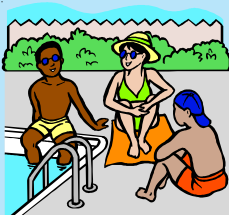
#### Wild Wednesday Tournaments 6:30 p.m.

Aug. 4, UNO  
Aug. 11, Spade's  
Aug. 18, 8-ball Pool  
Aug. 26, Ping Pong



#### Make your own pizza Aug. 12 6 p.m.

The Liberty Center will have all the fixing's for home-made pizza. Stop by the new Liberty kitchen to see what they have.



#### Pool Party Aug. 20 4 - 7 p.m.

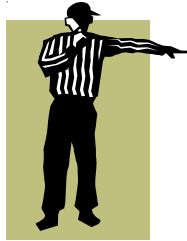
The Liberty Center is hosting a pool party with free food, games and a DJ.

#### Movie Trivia Contest

Every week in August there will be a movie trivia question of the week. Answer the question right and win a chance at winning the grand prize, a portable DVD player. The winner will be awarded at noon on Aug. 31 at the Liberty Center.

For more information about Liberty Center events, call 761-2402

Naval Station Pascagoula's Morale, Welfare and Recreation department has a wide range of activities and events planned for August. They include:



#### Referee Basketball Clinic

Aug. 6, noon - 6 p.m.  
Base Gym

Join us on the court to become a certified NIRSA basketball official. The clinic is free to anyone interested and opportunities exist this fall to officiate basketball games. Call 761-2107 or stop by the gym to sign up.



#### Summer Softball Intramurals

Every Tuesday and  
Thursday night  
Main Ball Field

Come out for the softball games every Tuesday and Thursday nights during the month of Aug. The final regular season game is Aug. 26 and the end of the season tournament is Aug. 30, 31 and Sept. 1.

#### Basketball Tournament Aug 13 and 14

The Summer Basketball tournament is open to area teams and cost \$150 per team. Call 761-2107 for more information.



#### MWR Shuttle Schedule

Need to get to the mall or to visit Cracker Jack's at the Lakeside facility? Shuttle service is provided daily.

**Monday, Wednesday  
& Friday**  
4 - 10 p.m.  
**Saturday**  
2 - 10 p.m.

#### Swimming Pool

Enjoy some cool fun in the hot summer sun. The base pool is open, and ready for a splash any day of the week. Burn twice the fat during Water Jog. The pool hours are:

#### Lap Swim

Monday - Friday  
6:30 - 8:30

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

#### Open Swim

Monday - Friday  
1 - 7 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday  
Noon - 5 p.m.

#### Water Jogging

Mondays, 11 a.m.,  
Wednesday, 8 a.m.



#### Massage Service

Relax. Give your muscles 15 minutes of free massage at the base gymnasium every Wednesday, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Call 761-2107 to make a reservation. Massage service provided by Lori Richter, massage therapist.

**Golf Outing**  
Sponsored by  
Destroyer Squadron Six

August 20

Gulf Hills Country Club,  
Ocean Springs



\$50 per person (food, fees, drinks and carts are included in price)

First Command  
will give \$10,000  
for a hole in one.

For more information  
call 228-249-2051.

## Personal Classifieds

#### Cats for a good home:

Two female cats need a good home. Both have their rabies shots and are 10 months old. One cat is a grey tabby and the other is cream with grey tips and big blue eyes. For more information call 228-522-1513.

### Fleet and Family Support Center Schedule of Events

Aug. 2 - 5  
12:30 - 3:30 p.m.  
Stress and Anger  
management training

Aug. 9 - 12  
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Transition Assistance

Aug. 30  
1 - 2:30 p.m.  
Smooth Move

For more information  
on FFSC training call  
761-2096.